Dear City Council Members,

I am hoping you can assist us with a problem we have encountered.

Landon Osborne and I (Heidi Daringer) purchased a home at 1840 E street in May of 2005 and we attempted to restore a concrete wall that was falling apart along our alley. Rick Ems of Ems Concrete came out and stated that the wall could not be repaired as the footings were deteriorated and the original bricks (32 inches in length) could not be replaced. This house was built in 1900 and the alley wall looked as if it were put up at that time.

Rick proceeded to meet with Steve Weise with Building and Safety; Rick was given the O.K. to replace the existing brick wall with a new wall in the same spot. As you most likely know, this is not the safest neighborhood and we feel that we need the protection from the dark alley that joins our backyard, we would have liked to have kept the existing structure but is was cracked and not secure. Building of the new wall is nearly complete; a week ago we received a letter from Public Works and Utilities stating that we need to bring the wall in 25 feet from the sidewalk as per code. Landon and I are concerned as this is nearly our entire backyard. As far as we knew, Steve with Building and Safety already approved where the wall has been placed (3 ft in from the sidewalk along the alley) even before the footings had been dug.

Last weekend we met with Shane Dostal the Senior Engineering Specialist with Public Works and Utilities Department and he has stated that the city is willing to make some compromises with us if we bring the wall out to the property line (11 feet from the sidewalk.) We are ok with this if we are not able to leave the structure as it currently is at 3 feet in from the sidewalk.

The wall is nearly complete and we want to make sure that there is visibility for pedestrians, but, at the same time, we would like some safety for ourselves as this is a high crime neighborhood and the alley wall offers some protection from the dark alley. Rick Ems did not begin construction on the new wall until after he had received the O.K. from Steve at Building and Safety and now we just want to make sure that this is handled correctly and the homeowner and city can work something out.

When we purchased the home in May it had been vacant for the past five years, overgrowth was abundant and quite honestly, the yard was 'scary,' I can't think of any other way of putting it. I would be pleased to show you the before and after photos of the yard as we have worked very hard on a yard that was once full of bricks, weed trees, old ponds and abundant overgrowth of everything!!! (the pictures will show the transformation - I guarantee it.) All we want is to have a nice home and to feel safe there. We love the area and love the idea of raising children in this area, but we also want to have a sense of security as we are a corner lot along an alley.

We can be reached at home at 477-4531 and my cell # is 503/819-1306, London's cell # is 402/440-4258. Home email address is heidi90@hotmail.com

Thank you for your time

Heidi Daringer and Landon Osborne

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